

VEF SPECIAL PROJECTS

No.	Titles of Projects	Brief Description	Status	Vietnamese counterparts	VEF's support
1	MSI Centers of Excellence	The Millennium Science Initiative (MSI) is an international initiative designed to build capacity in modern science and technology in developing countries with an aim to reducing poverty levels and encouraging economic development. Highly adaptable to individual country contexts, MSI achieves its mission principally through “MSI Institutes,” which are Centers of Excellence in scientific research and training located within existing institutions.	(1) VEF supported a workshop on “Building Science and Technology Capacity in Vietnam,” in April 2004 in Hanoi; (2) A Statement of Cooperation (SOC) among MOST, SIG and VEF was signed on November 17, 2004; (3) A SIG mission headed by Dr. Harold Varmus, Nobel Laureate in biotechnology, visited Vietnam from 15 to 19 March , 2005 to evaluate the feasibility of MSI in Vietnam; (4) A delegation of Vietnamese government officials went on a Study Tour to Brazil and Chile from August 20 to September 4, 2005 to learn from these countries' experiences; (5) A follow-up seminar on MSI was organized on November 15, 2005; (6) A consultant is hired to help the MSI Project Team write a proposal, which should be completed by the end of June 2006 and submitted to the Prime Minister for approval.	MSI Steering Board and Core Working Group with the participation of representatives from various government agencies of Vietnam including the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Education and Training, the Ministry of Investment and Planning, and the Ministry of Finance.	VEF supported the following scientists to come to Vietnam: (1) Dr. Phillip Griffiths. Professor, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton; (2) Dr. Chung Kim. Professor Emeritus and Chairman, Advisory Board of the Korea Institute for Advanced Study (KIAS) and Professor of Physics at the Johns Hopkins University; (3) Dr. Harold Varmus. President of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Nobel Laureate; (4) Dr. John Hopcroft. IBM Professor of Engineering and Applied Mathematics in Computer Science, Cornell University; (5) Ms. Arlen Hastings. Executive Director, SIG.

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2	World-class University	In light of Resolution 14/2005 of the Government and followed the statements of the Prime Minister of Vietnam during his visit to the U.S., VEF has been working closely with the World-class University Project Team to move the project forward.	Initially, VEF signed a Letter of Commitment with Project Team help them find an appropriate model for Vietnam.	A Project Team established by the Prime Minister. There are 16 members from various government agencies including the Office of the Government, the Ministry of Education and Training and universities.	In June 2006, VEF supports Dr. Malcolm Gillis, former President of Rice University, to Vietnam. Dr. Gillis has helped Germany successfully set up the International University of Bremen (IUB). He will share his experience with the Project Team. In addition, VEF will help the Project Team organize Study Tours to learn from other successful countries.
3	Open Course Ware (OCW)	VEF has been working with MIT and the Ministry of Education and Training to bring MIT OCW into the syllabi of the universities in Vietnam. In addition, a MOU among MOET, VASC and the Connexions of Rice University has been signed recently to promote Connexions software tools for VOCW.	As the first step, an MOU among MIT, MOET and VEF has been signed on November 17, 2005 to launch OCW program in Vietnam. A Project Team has been established with representatives from MOET, VASC and VEF. There are 14 VOCW member universities. OCW syllabus designing groups will be formed in three disciplines: computer science, electrical engineering and biotechnology. These groups of faculty members will design appropriate syllabi for these fields. After being peer-reviewed both internally and externally, these materials will be taught in VOCW member universities and posted online.	MOET, VASC, 14 VOCW member universities.	VEF plans to cover the costs of hosting the mirror site the OCW in Vietnam and installing servers at the universities. In addition, VEF will support syllabus designing groups to make necessary translation.

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4	Higher Education Quality Assessment and Accreditation	VEF and U.S. NA implemented this project in three departments (computer science, electrical engineering and physics) of 4 selected universities. The overall objective of the project is to investigate the differences between American and Vietnamese higher education and recommend solution to narrow the gap.	The project last from January to August 2006.	MOET, Southeast Asia Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), Universities of Technology and Natural Sciences Universities of Hanoi and HCMC.	VEF supports U.S. experts to come to Vietnam in January and August 2006 to work on project.
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